

FINAL

THIRD TAXING DISTRICT
of the City of Norwalk
Special Commission Meeting
December 16, 2019

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners: Johnnie Mae Weldon, Chair; Pam Parkington;
Michele Sweeney

STAFF: Kevin Barber, General Manager
Ron Scofield, Assistant General Manager/District Clerk

OTHERS: Peter Johnson, CMEEC Ratepayer Representative

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Weldon called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public was in attendance to comment.

APPOINTMENT OF RATEPAYER REPRESENTATIVE TO CMEEC BOARD

Mr. Barber reviewed the history of the Ratepayer Representative to the CMEEC Board. This position was created per Public Act 17-73, "AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY COOPERATIVES AND ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC CONSUMER ADVOCATE."

On December 18, 2017, the Third Taxing District Commission appointed Peter Johnson to this position for a two-year term ending on December 20, 2019. As Mr. Johnson's term is ending, the Commission must either reappoint Mr. Johnson to another term or appoint a new ratepayer to this position.

Mr. Barber told the Commission that Mr. Johnson has actively attended the CMEEC Board meetings and also served on the Executive Search Committee and the Risk Management Committee, of which he was elected chair.

Commissioner Parkington asked Mr. Johnson if he was interested to serve again in this position and he replied that he was.

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Commissioner Weldon said that if Mr. Johnson is still willing to serve in this position, that she would like to see him remain in the position.

Commissioner Sweeney was in agreement with her fellow Commissioners.

**** COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION: BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE THIRD TAXING DISTRICT COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES, PURSUANT TO PUBLIC ACT 17-73, "AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY COOPERATIVES AND ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC CONSUMER ADVOCATE," THE APPOINTMENT OF THE RATEPAYER REPRESENTATIVE, PETER JOHNSON, TO THE CONNECTICUT MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ENERGY COOPERATIVE (CMEEC) BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THIS APPOINTMENT, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, SHALL BE FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2021. THE RATEPAYER REPRESENTATIVE SHALL RECEIVE COMPENSATION FROM CMEEC IN THE MANNER AND AMOUNT SET FORTH IN THE CMEEC BYLAWS.**

**** COMMISSIONER SWEENEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

UPDATE OF EAST AVENUE WIDENING PROJECT

Mr. Barber told the Commission that the reason he was bringing this to the Commission's attention is that he has been in communication with the City of Norwalk and it appears that they will probably be coming to the Commission in January asking for them to make a decision on undergrounding the electric distribution system on East Avenue.

Mr. Barber reviewed the history of what has transpired since January 7, 2019 when the City came to the Commission meeting to discuss the projects on East Avenue and to share with the Commission their vision of East Avenue which included undergrounding and the road widening project for East Avenue.

On March 29, 2019, the City came back again to the Commission to provide updates on the project and had a request of the Commission and requested that Third Taxing District staff be allowed to work with the City on developing a conceptual plan for undergrounding our electric utilities on East Avenue. At that time, the Commission approved having staff to work with the City on the conceptual design. They also inquired about the property at 215 East Avenue which is located right next to the East Norwalk Railroad Station.

As a follow-up, in May 2019, Mr. Barber provided the Commission a report on undergrounding (pro vs. con scenario). Since that time, staff has been working with the City. The City is now at the stage where they are ready to say that they can afford the project and will be asking for an answer as to whether or not they can proceed with the project in the District. The decision that needs to be made is whether or not the Commission will allow the utility to underground the

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electric distribution system on East Avenue. In the past, the Commission and staff has taken the approach that Third Taxing District is an above ground utility.

The Commission can decide to say “yes” or “no” to the City. “No” meaning that the electric distribution system will remain above ground or “yes” the electric distribution system can go underground on the small area of East Avenue.

As for the expense, it would be totally funded by the City of Norwalk. The City would upgrade and install new facilities at their expense and then turn it over to Third Taxing District to operate and maintain.

Mr. Barber asked the Commission if there was any further information they were looking to obtain from him or the City prior to the City coming before the Commission in January 2020.

Commissioner Parkington asked how 215 East Avenue would fit into this project. Mr. Barber responded that the City has yet to come back to Third Taxing District about the property. Commissioner Parkington asked whether or not the projected plan for 215 East Avenue would have any affect on the undergrounding project. Mr. Barber stated that he does not believe it would. The 215 East Avenue project would only affect the intersection at Fort Point Street. Mr. Barber is expecting the City to come back and ask about that project as well at some point.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COMMISSIONER SWEENEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Tenney
Executive Assistant
Third Taxing District